

VILLAGE OF WAITE HILL

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January 19, 2012

Dear Village Resident,

After 46 years as Mayor of the Village of Waite Hill, Art Baldwin stepped down from that position at our January Village Council meeting. We all owe Art a debt of gratitude for his service over that period.

As Council President, I was sworn in as Mayor and have been serving in that role for the past ten days. Needless to say, it is a humbling experience, one with a steep learning curve, and a role filled with much responsibility. My pledge is to do my very best at all times and to conduct myself in a manner consistent with the Village's best interests.

There is much happening in the Village and I thought it would be appropriate to communicate on a number of topics.

Charter Amendment Initiative

As previously communicated in a December 1, 2011 letter to residents, Council unanimously enacted an ordinance at its December 2011 meeting to put before the voters a proposed change to the Village's Charter. If approved, the proposed Charter amendment would require any vacancy in the office of Mayor (other than a vacancy in the last year of the then Mayor's term) be submitted to a vote of the people at the next November election, with the Mayor elected by the people to then serve in that role for the balance of the unexpired term. For the reasons we set forth in our December 1 letter, we are hopeful that the proposed charter amendment will be approved.

Council Appointments

At the January Council meeting, Ryan Cox was elected as the new Council President. Ryan has served as chair of Council's Finance Committee since Matt Crawford moved out of the Village and resigned his position.

Ken Dery was elected as Council Vice President and has also agreed to continue his service as Council's representative on the Village's Planning and Zoning Commission and Architectural Review Board. His service in these roles over the past 15 years has served the Village well.

Karl Scheucher was appointed as chair of Council's Finance Committee, a position of significant importance given challenges that now confront all municipalities as a result of budgetary demands. Karl has an exceptionally good understanding of the Village's revenues and expenditures that will be extremely helpful as we deal with the financial challenges that face us.

Bob Gale and Courtenay Taplin will remain Chairs of Council's Service and Safety Committees, respectively, and Rich Steudel will serve on the Council subcommittee that interviews candidates to fill the vacant Council seat as discussed below.

Council Vacancy

When I was sworn in as Mayor, a vacancy was created on the Village Council. We requested parties having an interest in serving on the Council to submit an expression of interest and a statement of qualifications to Janet Mulh, the Village's Clerk-Treasurer. A number of individuals have expressed interest to date. If you wish to be considered, there is still time to let us know. Council has established a January 31 deadline for submitting your qualifications. During February, a subcommittee of Village Council will interview all candidates, make a recommendation to the Council as a whole and the Council will forward its recommendation to me. The new councilperson will then be sworn in at our March 12th meeting.

Planning and Zoning – The Village's Zoning Code

We are very close to adopting a comprehensive series of amendments to our zoning code that many in the Village have been working on for the past couple of years. The purpose of these amendments is to coordinate and integrate the past 25 years of changes to the existing code in a comprehensive fashion so that our zoning ordinances are as defensible as possible against outside challenges, the Village retains its current character and the attributes that attract all of us to Waite Hill are preserved long into the future.

There will be a public hearing at the Village's Planning and Zoning meeting on January 23 at 8:00 a.m. in the Village Hall if you would like to learn more. The Village's outside planning consultant, David Hartt, will outline the proposed changes at that meeting and answer any questions that arise. David is highly experienced and well regarded in this field and is a key leader of the group that has been working on the project. Also key to the working group has been the Village's Law Director, Steve Byron.

Other Near-Term Initiatives

We are in the infancy stages of creating a Village website. We hope to get it up and running sooner rather than later to facilitate communication with residents and to

increase transparency. In the meantime, please direct all inquiries to Janet Mulh at Village Hall, (440) 942-1612, and we will get you an answer.

Council's Finance Committee will also be undertaking a comprehensive analysis and forecast of all revenue and expenses so that residents can gain a better understanding of our financial situation and some of the challenges that the Village faces in the upcoming years.

Some Personal Background

There are many residents I know and probably more that I have yet to meet. My colleagues on the Council have suggested that I give some personal background so that residents have a better understanding of my qualifications. Typically I am not comfortable with such self-promotion. At the same time, residents have the right to know that the Village's affairs are being handled responsibly. To that end, I would offer the following:

I function in two professional capacities. I am a lawyer with a practice focused on representing individuals and closely-held businesses on a wide range of commercial and real estate matters and transactions, strategic planning, succession planning and other related areas. I also double as a Certified Public Accountant, Accredited Business Valuator and Certified Valuation Analyst. In this capacity, I spend the bulk of my time providing business advisory services and serving clients, lawyers and courts as a consulting expert and a testifying expert in complex financial matters involving commercial disputes and business valuation.

Prior to moving into the Village, I served as the City of Willoughby's Councilman-at-Large and chaired its Economic Development Committee and Environmental Planning Committee for a period of ten years. I have been on Village Council for five years.

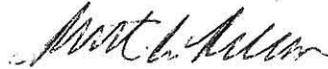
I currently serve on the Board of Trustees of Andrews Osborne Academy and the School of Fine Arts and am a member of the Willoughby Rotary. I also graduated from Leadership Lake County.

Finally, after spending two years at John Carroll University, I received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame and a Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University College of Law. That generally ensures that I will have at least one winning football team to root for in the fall, one of my favorite times of the year.

A Final Request

As we evaluate the current state of affairs, please do not hesitate to call Village Hall with any questions or concerns that you have. We will do our best to address them. At the same time, we ask for patience as we work to implement some of the things that we hope will improve Village operations and communications with residents. For this we thank you in advance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert A. Ranallo".

Robert A. Ranallo

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